(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Flood menace

444. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for floods in the country;

(b) what are the factor responsible for Government efforts so far in the control of floods remaining ineffective; and

(c) what is the long term solution to the flood menace in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and in many States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the report of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog, the floods are caused due to over spilling of water from the river banks due to excessive precipitation combined with inadequate channel capacity. This occurs mainly due to deforestation, lack of soil conservation and indiscriminate use of land for development works.

(b) and (c) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Government, as per their own priorities, out of their state plans funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. Expert Committees constituted by Government of India in the past to look into the problem of floods in the country observed that absolute immunity from floods is not practically possible. However, their impact can be mitigated by way of suitable structural and non structural measures. The recommendations so such Expert Committees have been circulated concerned Ministries/States for their implementation. In addition, Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines of "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January 2008 *inter alia* provides for preparation of flood management plans at national, State and district levels covering all aspect of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

Flood management programme in Assam

445. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of schemes proposed by the State Government of Assam and those sanctioned by the Central Government under flood management programme between 2007-08;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the embankments in Assam are more than twenty five years also which needs Central attention for reconstruction; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the perennial flood problem of Assam alongwith details thereof?